



# City of Alexandria, VA

City Hall, 301 King St. Room 3500, Alexandria, VA 22314

## eNews

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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## City of Alexandria Holds 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Armenian Festival on Saturday, June 6

The Armenian Festival Committee and the Knights of Vartan in partnership with the City of Alexandria will host the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Armenian Festival on Saturday, June 6, from noon to 5 p.m., at Market Square, 301 King St. Admission is free and the festival will be held rain or shine.

Entertainment features the renowned Arax Armenian Dance Ensemble, which has performed its unique line and circle dances in beautiful authentic folk costumes throughout the East Coast, with Artistic Director Carolyn Rapkiewicz; Violinist Arec Jamgochian; Oud player David Rapkiewicz; vocalist Vivian Chakarian; Keyboardist Ervand Kristosturyan; Isabella Balumian, singer and saxophonist, Tigran Hovhannisyan; the Aghtamar Youth Dance Group; the Birky Family enacting Armenian folk tales; story time for children and Armenian folk tunes.

The festival will feature displays showcasing Armenian paintings and arts and crafts. Beef, lamb and pork kabobs, *lahmajun* (a Middle Eastern style gourmet pizza), dolma (stuffed vegetable dishes), pitas, Eech, (bulgar vegetable salad), *baklava* (a layered pastry made of phyllo dough filled with chopped nuts and sweetened with syrup), chereg (breakfast sweet bread) and other food and beverages will be available for purchase.

The Armenian Festival is an annual charity event that benefits charities for children in Armenia, including the World Bank's Fund Matching Program. The Armenian Festival Committee and the Knights of Vartan, Ani Lodge of Washington, DC, are cosponsoring the event.

Visitors encouraged to take public transit, bike, or walk to the event. Visitors to Old Town can take the Metrorail lines to the King Street Station, and then the free King Street Trolley to the event. For DASH bus schedule information, call 703.370.DASH or visit [www.dashbus.com](http://www.dashbus.com). For Metrobus schedule information, call 202.637.7000 or visit [www.wmata.com](http://www.wmata.com).

Visit [www.alexandriava.gov/localmotion](http://www.alexandriava.gov/localmotion) for the City of Alexandria Bikeways Map. The map features the City's best on-street and off-road bikeways as well as locations of grouped bicycle parking. Bicyclists are encouraged to dismount when they enter the park, and use the limited bicycle parking available at Fort Ward Park during their visit to the festival.

For additional information, call the City's Special Events Hotline at 703.883.4686, or visit [www.ArmenianFestivals.com](http://www.ArmenianFestivals.com) for the most up to date information.

The City of Alexandria is committed to compliance with the City's Human Rights Code and the Americans with Disabilities Act. To request a reasonable accommodation or to request materials in an alternative format, call Cheryl Lawrence of the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities at 703.838.5095, extension 655 (TTY 703.838.4902), or e-mail [cheryl.lawrence@alexandriava.gov](mailto:cheryl.lawrence@alexandriava.gov).